

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 071315Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6546

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJ: BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

1. CAHEN OF BELGIAN EMBASSY HAS HAD ONLY BRIEF TELEPHONIC REPORT OF MOBUTU, LEBURTON, VAN ELSLANDE FEB 6 MEETING IN MUNICH FROM LEBURTON'S CHEF DE CABINET. CAHEN'S IMPRESSION IS THAT MEETING WENT WELL UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. MAIN ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ON BELGIAN SIDE WERE: (A) RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF BELGIANS IN ZAIRE AFFECTED BY ZAIRIANIZATION; (B) INDEMNIFICATION TO SGM; AND OTHER BELGIAN INTERESTS AFFECTED BY NOV 30 MEASURES; (C) FUTURE BELGIAN-ZAIRE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION; AND (D) FUTURE OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR.

2. CAHEN HIMSELF IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO BRUSSELS PRIOR TO MARCH 1 TO BEGIN FORMULATING PROPOSALS TO NEW BELGIAN GOVT. FOR EXPECTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH ZAIRE. DAVIGNON HAS INDICATED THAT CAHEN WOULD ALSO PROBABLY BE MEMBER OF NEGOTIATING TEAM AND MIGHT HAVE TO RETURN TO KINSHASA FROM TIME TO TIME. MUCH TO CAHEN'S RELIEF FONOFF HAS ALSO HELD OUT HOPE THAT HE

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WILL BE NAMED DCM IN WASHINGTON WHEN SUMMER TRANSFERS TAKE

PLACE.

3. DESPITE PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN HERE, AMBASSADOR VANDEN BLOOCK RETURNED TO KINSHASA SHORTLY AFTER MOBUTU DEPARTED ON HIS CURRENT TRIP. GOB NOW PROPOSES THAT WITH TRANSFER OF CAHEN AND UPCOMING ELECTIONS, AMBASSADOR VANDEN BLOOCK BE PERMITTED TO STAY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WILL BE TRANSFERRED IN JUNE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES FONOFF'S CHOICE OF CAHEN FOR HIS NEW JOB IS A GOOD ONE. CAHEN IS VERY CAPABLE, ONE OF BELGIUM'S GREATEST EXPERTS ON ZAIRE, AND WIDELY RESPECTED BY MOBUTU AND OTHER GOZ OFFICIALS. CAHEN WILL BE SORELY MISSED BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN KINSHASA BUT WILL BE AN EXCELLENT SOURCE FOR EMBASSY BRUSSELS ON GOB THINKING ON THE FUTURE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE.
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